

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-16 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagakusa (US 5,295,853). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants Figure 1 shows frame 401. In Figure 1, frame 401 is coupled to test head 300 (but in an alternative embodiment, may be coupled to the peripheral). A linear unit (which may include, for example, threaded members 440), is also included. The linear unit causes frame 401 to move towards or away from the docking service of the test head (as shown, for example, in Figure 1). The frame controls how close the test head and the peripheral can come to each other. At a proper distance between each other, the test head and the peripheral communicate. If the test head and the peripheral come too close, the electrical contacts which enable communication between the test head and the peripheral may be crushed. Thus, the frame is adjustable to change the distance between the test head and the peripheral when the two are docking. This is desirable because, for example, different configurations of test heads and peripherals may require respectively different distances between the two. The exemplary embodiment described above allows the distance to be changed for the configuration of the test head and/or peripheral being used.

Nagakusa discloses a cam mechanism for mounting a device under test (DUT) board on a test head. Nagakusa lowers the DUT board to a single predefined distance between the DUT board and the test head. Nagakusa is completely unable to change the distance between the DUT board and the test head at which communication between the two occurs.

Thus, Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by Nagakusa, namely:

...a frame...

...a linear unit...to change said distance ("said distance" is the distance between the test head and the peripheral)...

...said frame preventing said test head and said peripheral from being closer to each other than said distance,

wherein, at said distance, said test head and said peripheral communicate.

The "distance" which is disclosed by Nagakusa is fixed. By contrast, the "distance" which is recited in Applicants claim 1 is variable.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claim 12, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over Nagakusa for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

The remaining claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 12.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10-13 and 19-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Thurmaier (U.S. 6,836,109).

Like Nagakusa, Thurmaier discloses a docking system for bringing together a test head and a peripheral. Also like Nagakusa, Thurmaier is fixed in the final distance between the test head and the peripheral. Again, this is different than Applicants claim 1 where the distance between the test head and the peripheral is variable. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Thurmaier.

Claim 12, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over Thurmaier for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

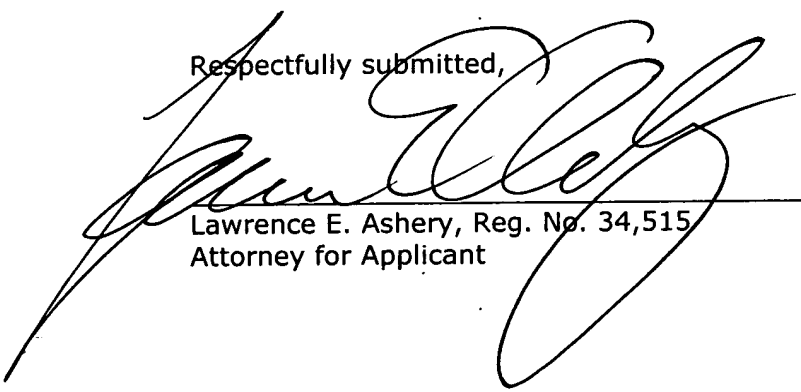
The remaining claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency and allowable independent claims.

Appln. No.: 10/678,691
Amendment Dated May 6, 2005
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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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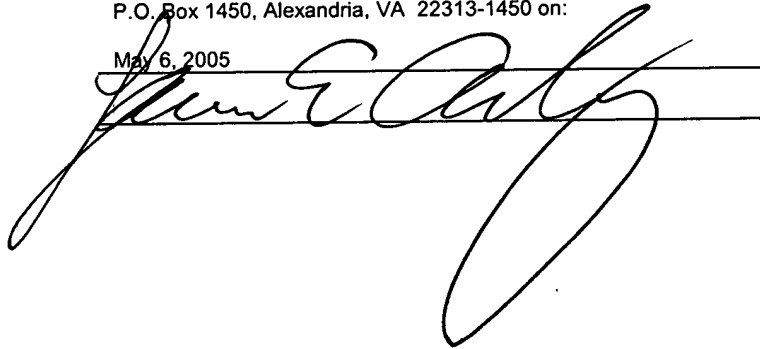
LEA/mjc

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